

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 06081 281329Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-15 IO-13 OIC-02 /126 W
-----065715 290513Z /17

R 272112Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8727

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 6081

EO 11652: GS
TAGS: ETRD, CO
SUBJ: LABOR STANDARDS: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

REF: STATE 136706

1. POST UNAWARE OF ANY PROVISIONS IN THE COLOMBIAN LABOR LAW THAT ALLOW FOR DIFFERENTIAL STANDARDS TO BE APPLIED TO INDUSTRIES SPECIALIZING IN EXPORTING OR IN IMPORT SUBSTITUTION. SIMILARLY, POST UNAWARE OF ANY PROVISIONS THAT WOULD ALLOW DIFFERENT LABOR STANDARDS TO BE APPLIED IN FREE TRADE ZONES OR IN OTHER CONDITIONS MENTIONED IN REFTEL PARA 3(D).

2. CONCERNING REFTEL'S SPECIFIC REQUESTS: SLAVE OR FORCED LABOR: NOT PERMITTED BY LABOR LAWS. CHILD LABOR: MINORS UNDER 14 YEARS MAY NOT WORK IN INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES. MINORS UNDER 18 YEARS MAY NOT WORK DURING THE NIGHT, EXCEPT IN NON-INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES (COLOMBIAN LABOR CODE, SECTION II, PART I, TITLE VI, CHAPTER IV, PARA 1155). SAFETY AT THE WORK PLACE: EMPLOYERS SHALL KEEP WORK PLACES SAFE; WHEN THERE ARE MORE THAN 10 WORKERS, CODIFIED SAFETY RULES MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE MINISTRY OF LABOR; SPECIAL RULES SHALL BE IN EFFECT FOR MINES AND THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, AND SPECIAL MEASURES SHALL BE USED FOR
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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 06081 281329Z

DANGEROUS ELEMENTS (COLOMBIAN LABOR CODE, SECTION II, PART 1, TITLE IX, PARAS 1946 AND 1948).

3. CONSULATES HAVE INQUIRED OF DIRECTORS OF FREE TRADE ZONES IN CALI AND BARRANQUILLA WHETHER LABOR LAWS OR STANDARDS MAY BE APPLIED DIFFERENTLY IN THE ZONES. IN BOTH CASES THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN THAT THE LABOR PROVISIONS ARE APPLIED EXACTLY THE SAME

INSIDE THE ZONES AS OUTSIDE.

4. A REPRESENTATIVE OF AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR FREE LABOR
DEVELOPMENT HAS COMMENTED THAT WHILE THE STANDARDS SET IN THE
COLOMBIAN LABOR CODE MAY NOT ALWAYS BE MAINTAINED HE SEES NO
TREND IN THIS AREA FAVORING INDUSTRIES IN EXPORT OR IMPORT
SUBSTITUTION SECTORS.
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Message Attributes

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